

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Tomaz Dopico Varela

Serial No.:

Group Art Unit:

Filed: Herewith

For: HYDROFORMED AXLE WITH WELDLESS BRAKE
FLANGE AND BEARING SHOULDER

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 AND 1.98

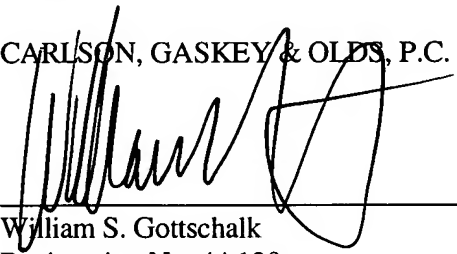
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The patents and publications listed in the attached form PTO-1449 were cited in the parent application Serial No. 09/940,106; Filed August 27, 2001. Pursuant to Rule 1.98(d) copies need not be provided, however; new references 5,101,554, 5,282,672, 5,447,385 and Japanese Patent No. JP61135434 are enclosed. None of these references discloses the invention claimed in the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.



William S. Gottschalk
Registration No. 44,130
400 W. Maple
Suite 350
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 988-8360

Dated: 2/3/04

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	
Filing Date	Herewith
First Named Inventor	Tomaz Dopico Varela
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	60,130-2033/01MRA0197

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials ²	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 5,641,176	06/24/1997	Alatalo	
		US- 5,673,929	10/07/1997	Alatalo	
		US- 5,720,092	02/24/1998	Ni et al.	
		US- 5,899,498	05/04/1999	Horton	
		US- 6,015,182	01/18/2000	Weissert et al.	
		US- 6,120,059	09/19/2000	Beckman	
		US- 6,170,309	01/09/2001	Marando	
		US- 6,234,375	05/22/2001	Durand	
		US- 4,363,522	12/1982	Palovcik	
		US- 6,059,378	5/2000	Dougherty et al.	
		US- 6,122,948	9/2000	Moses	
		US- 6,484,384	11/2002	Gibson et al.	
		US- 6,487,886	12/2002	Ueno et al.	
		US- 6,572,199	06/2003	Creek et al.	
		US- 5,101,554	4/7/1992	Breuer et al.	
		US- 5,282,672	1/25/1994	Hochstein	
		US- 5,447,385	09/05/1995	Swars	
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

**Examiner
Signature**

Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.